

June 07, 2010

Representative McDermott, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee

via email

RE: Hearing on Responding to Long-Term Unemployment

Dear Chairman McDermott:

My name is Martha L. Newell. I live in rural Northwest Alabama. I was a banker for 12 straight years with the same institution. I have been unemployed since July 15, 2008. I am now 46 years old.

Mr. McDermott, I am not a stupid person or a bum, as I have read from some people on the internet. I am deeply hurt by these accusations. I was living the American Dream and now it has become an American Nightmare. I never thought that my bank would close. It was established in 1912 and ran by the same family for generations. I thought my job was secure as we all did.

I have been actively looking for work since then. Mr. McDermott, I am not beneath to work any job, but unfortunately, there are no jobs to be found that will hire me. The worst words I think I have heard is that I am over qualified.

I have lived at the same address for over 20 years now. I only have 2 years and 5 months until my house will be paid off. Yes, I am counting down the months and praying that I do not lose it. I only have about three weeks left on my tier 4 and I am scared and not embarrassed to say so.

I have a 6 year old son and a 6 year old grandson that lives in this house. I am so worried and do not know how I will be able to supply them with the things they need or even a roof over our heads once my unemployment ends.

I am barely getting by with my unemployment, but hey at least I am getting by. I am very thankful for that! I am thankful for the people like you that realize we need help.

I realize there are people that abuse the systems of America, but there are also a lot of us that don't. I am watching my world fall apart around me. Please help! I beg you!

Respectfully submitted,

Martha L.Newell